



TOWN AND VILLAGE OF HARRISON ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT



Alfred F. Sulla, Jr. Municipal Building
1 Heineman Place
Harrison, New York 10528

Michael J. Amodeo, P.E., CFM
Town/Village Engineer

Dear Resident:

Our community is concerned about repetitive flooding and has an active program to help you protect yourself and your property from future flooding, but here are some things you can do:

1. Check with the Engineering Department on the extent of past flooding in your area. Department staff can tell you about the causes of repetitive flooding, what the Town/Village of Harrison is doing about it, and what would be an appropriate flood protection level. The staff can visit your property to discuss flood protection alternatives.
2. Prepare for flooding by doing the following:
 - Know how to shut off the electricity and gas to your house when a flood comes.
 - Make a list of emergency numbers and identify a safe place to go.
 - Make a household inventory, especially of basement contents.
 - Put insurance policies, valuable papers, medicine, etc., in a safe place.
 - Collect and put cleaning supplies, camera, waterproof boots, etc., in a handy place.
 - Develop a disaster response plan. See the Red Cross's website at www.redcross.org for information about preparing your home and family for a disaster.
 - Get a copy of *Repairing Your Flooded Home*. We have copies at the Engineering Department or it can be found on the Red Cross' website, too.
3. Consider some permanent flood protection measures.
 - Mark your fuse or breaker box to show the circuits to the floodable areas. Turning off the power to the basement before a flood can reduce property damage and save lives.
 - Consider elevating your house above flood levels.
 - Check your building for water entry points, such as basement windows, the basement stairwell, doors, and dryer vents. These can be protected with low walls or temporary shields.
 - Install a floor drain plug, standpipe, overhead sewer, or sewer backup valve to prevent sewer backup flooding.
 - More information can be found at FEMA's website, www.ready.gov/floods.
 - Note that some flood protection measures may need a building permit and others may not be safe for your type of building, so be sure to talk to the Building Department.

4. Get a flood insurance policy.

- Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because our community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the Federal government and is available to everyone, even properties that have been flooded. Because our community participates in the Community Rating System, you will receive a reduction in the insurance premium.
- If your area is not mapped as a Special Flood Hazard Area, you may qualify for a lower-cost Preferred Risk Policy.
- Some people have purchased flood insurance because it was required by the bank when they got a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually these policies just cover the building's structure and not the contents. During the kind of flooding that happens in your area, there is usually more damage to the furniture and contents than there is to the structure. Be sure you have contents coverage.
- Don't wait for the next flood to buy insurance protection. In most cases, there is a 30-day waiting period before National Flood Insurance Program coverage takes effect.
- Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.

5. Financial help is available to help you.

- Housing Assistance may be available to help with temporary housing, repair and/or replacement and housing construction costs.
- Additional assistance may be available to help with ;
 - Medical and dental expenses
 - Funeral and burial costs
 - Repair, cleaning or replacement of clothing, household items, specialized tools, equipment or clothing required for your job, clean-up supplies, repairing or replacing damaged vehicles, moving and storage expenses among other things.
- Visit www.disasterassistance.gov for access to disaster help and resources.

Please feel free to contact the Engineering Department at 914-670-3102 for additional information and check out all the information we have on our website regarding flooding and flood protection. We are also available for site visits if requested.

Sincerely yours,

Michael J. Amodeo

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